Dec 6, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians of 5th Graders,

Our mission of a classical education in a modern world is one we take very seriously. We are merging past with present by grounding our school in many of the ideals and practices from the classical tradition with modern applications and practices. Mr. Burke, your child’s world geography teacher, uses technology actively in his course. In today's world, an authentic education includes digital literacy. Students are growing up in a world where paper is used less, and computer skills are critical for success.

This year in world geography, students will be writing opinion pieces about current events taking place around the world through writing persuasively on a personal blog. We will be using a Google App called “BLOGGER.” Each student will be responsible for creating and maintaining their own current events website in which they will publish one to two well-written and edited pieces a month. Students will be able to write about current events they are passionate about that are taking place around the world. As these current events unwind students will have the chance to update their blog to maintain current information. Students will continue to be exposed to current events through our subscription to *Junior Scholastic*, the novels read in class*,* *Newsela.com* and hopefully “dinner table conversation” at home.

**Guidelines that all students are expected to adhere:**

* Privacy settings should always be set to: “PRIVATE-Only these readers: [tburke@latinpcs.org](mailto:tburke@latinpcs.org), (insert parent email).”
  + Students will occasionally share their blog with 1-2 classmates at a time when instructed by a teacher.
* The “comments setting” should always be set to “only members of this blog”
* All peer comments made on blogs should be respectful. Inappropriate remarks, personal attacks, and bullying will be grounds for school discipline and removal of the perpetrator’s website.
* Students should **never** post their last name, their school name, their location, email, age, or any other personal information on their website.
* Students should follow all rules and expectations laid out in the WLPCS Technology Agreement, which can be found in the Parent-Student Handbook.
* Students unable to meet these expectations will have their website deleted and a harsh grade deduction applied to their “current events project grade.”

At Washington Latin, use of pen and pencil will always be a dominant mode of writing, but we also want to make sure we are using technology in the best sense: to help students be successful and to learn new skills. Mr. Burke will work closely with each and every child to learn the material and organize their thoughts in new and exciting ways. Laptops will be available for student use during class, 2 days a week, when students have posts due.

Please review this letter with your child, sign the form on the back, and put an email address that allows you to receive an invitation to your child’s website. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns,

Sincerely,

Tyler Burke Kathryn Pike Lacy Peale

5th World Geography 5/6 Grade Director Director of Academics [tburke@latinpcs.org](mailto:tdober@latinpcs.org) [kpike@latinpcs.org](mailto:kpike@latinpcs.org) [lpeale@latinpcs.org](mailto:lpeale@latinpcs.org)

I have read the letter carefully and will use technology appropriately and safely as stated above.

Student Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent email address (please write legibly): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_